

Our Water - Our Future

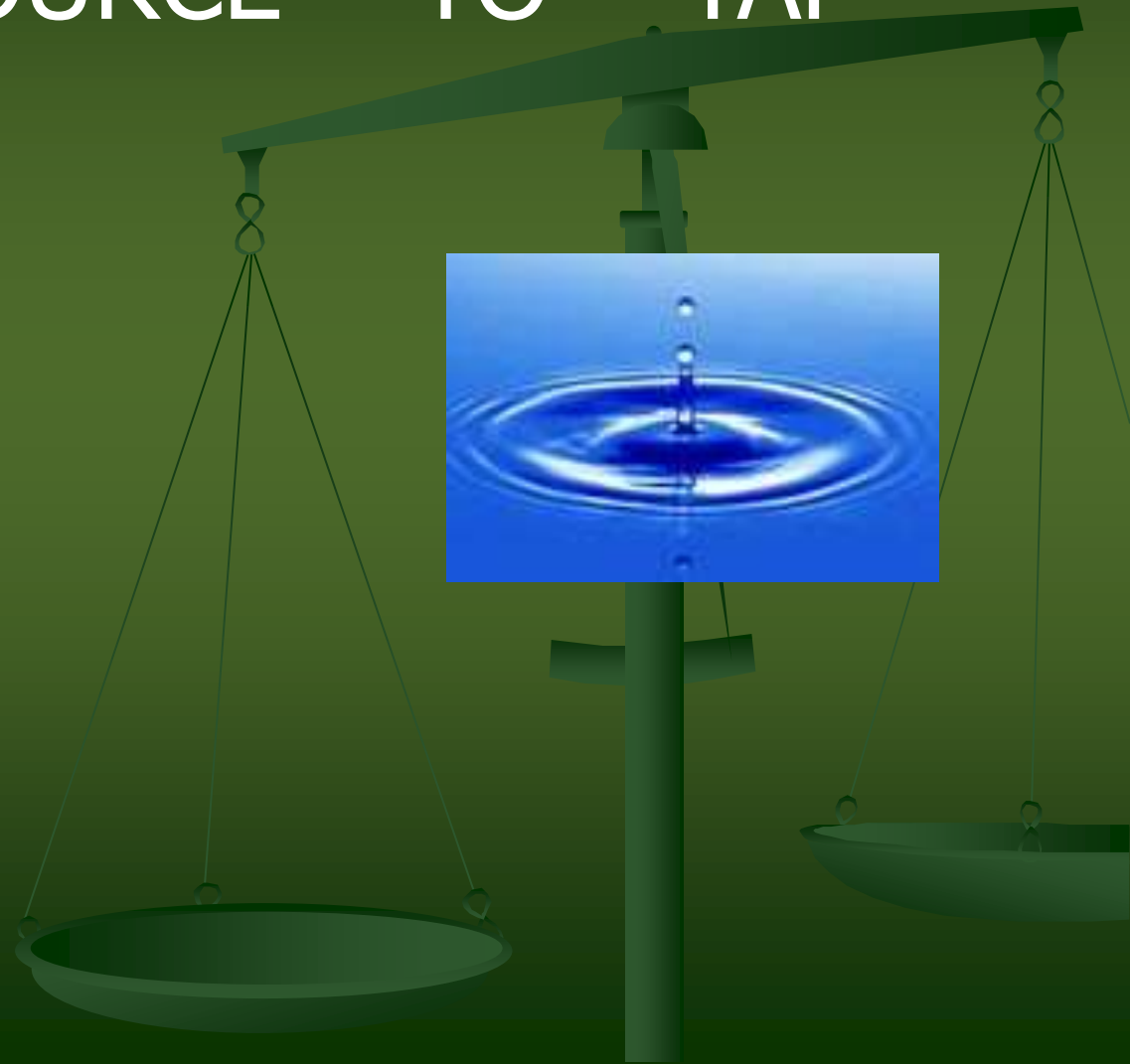


Watershed Governance

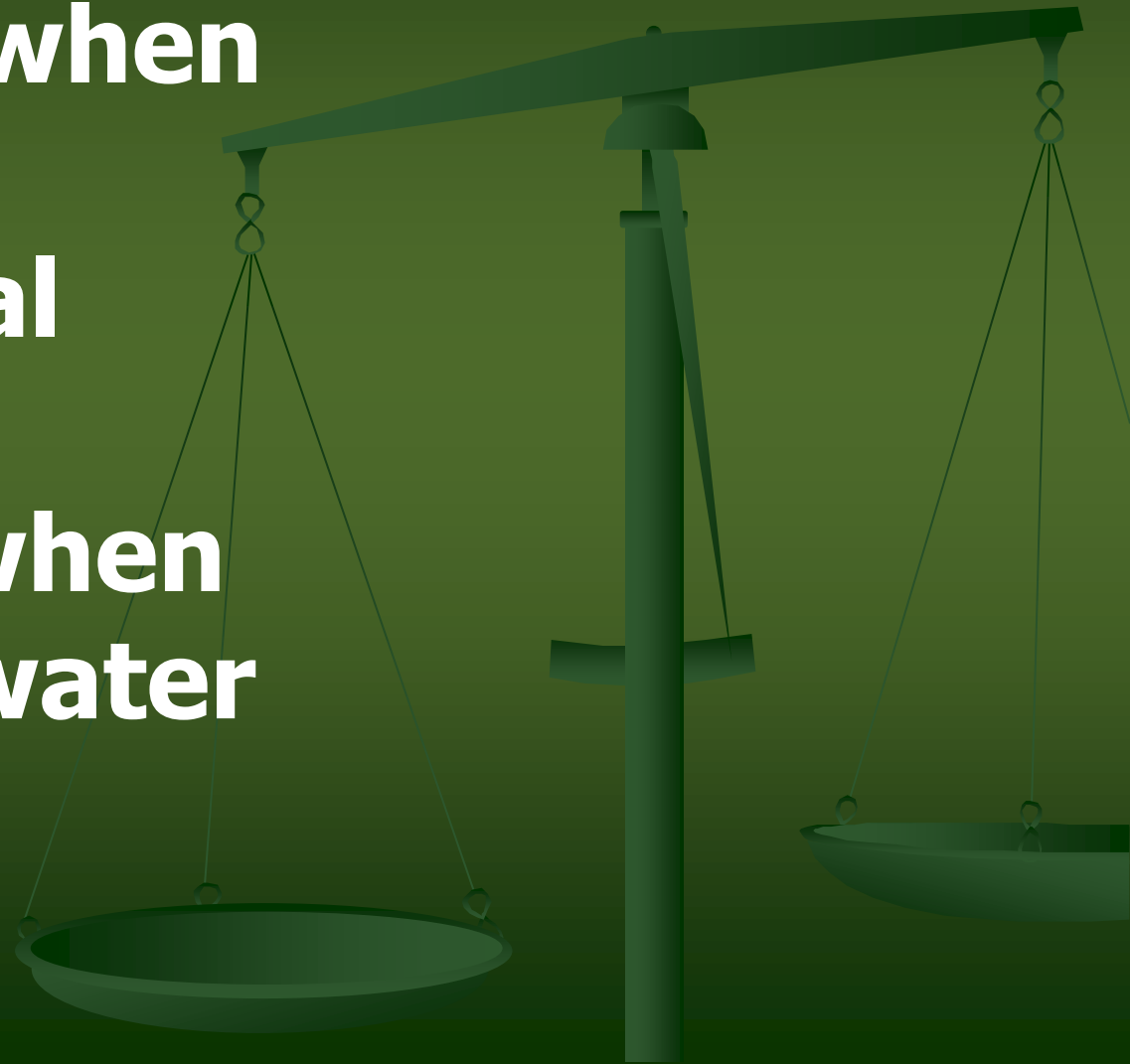
Who is Responsible ?

Management

FROM SOURCE TO TAP



**Sustainability will
only begin when
we use
fundamental
ecological
principles when
managing water
resources**



All surface water
is likely to be
contaminated

B C has the
highest intestinal
illness in Canada



Water resources are limited and vulnerable



Water resources must be protected for the whole ecosystem:

Human uses

Environment

Wildlife

Economy

Fire protection

Esthetic values



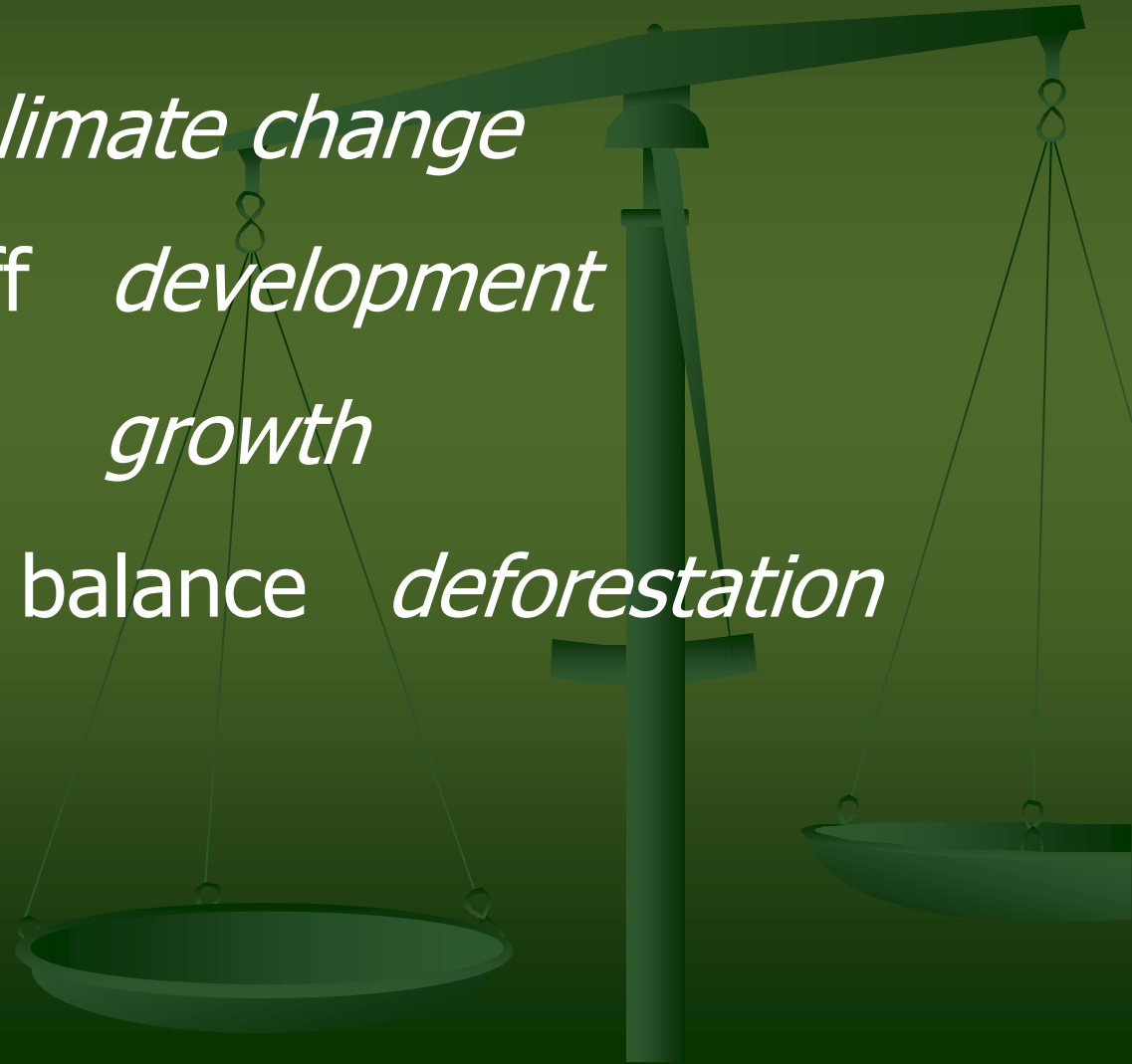
Limitations:

Precipitation *climate change*

Increased run off *development*

Higher demands *growth*

Reduced natural balance *deforestation*



Vulnerability

Overuse

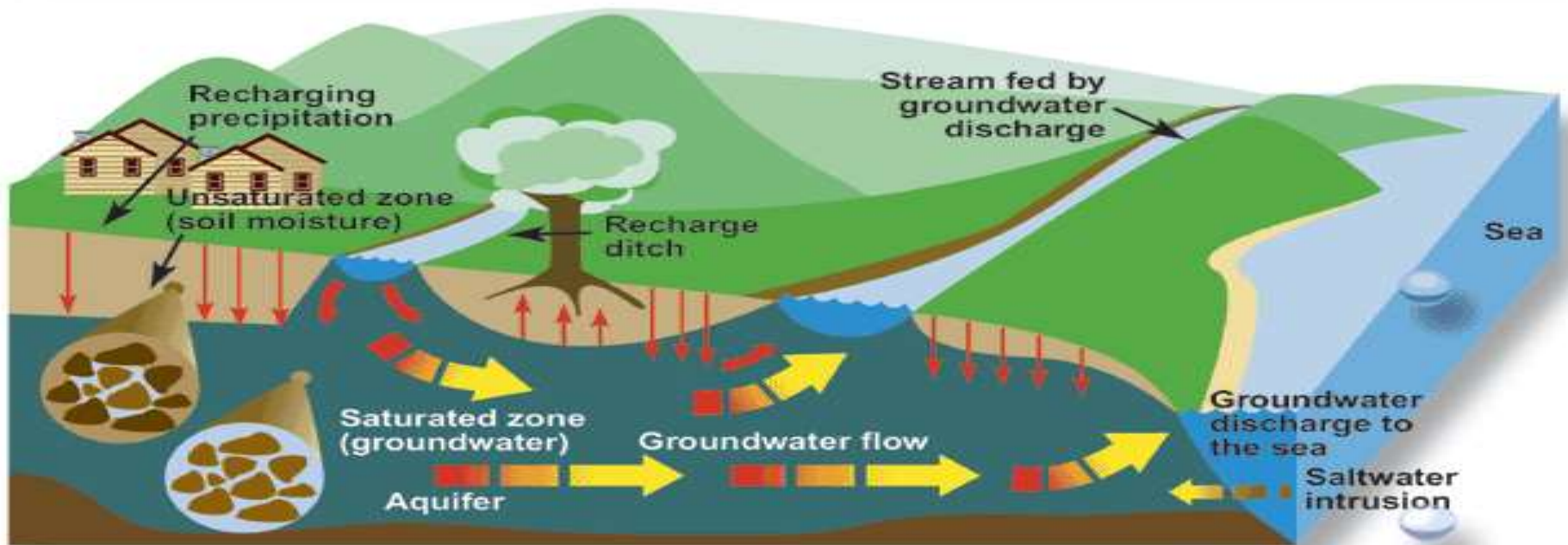
Contamination

Changing environment



British Columbia has minimal water source protection and limited groundwater legislation

Groundwater flow



Creating the Balance

Between

Rights

and

Responsibilities



Responsibility for water protection ?

Federal Government

Provincial Government

Regional District

Municipality

Health Authority

Individual or property owner



Dozen government ministries

+

Health Authorities

+

Local Governments



Could one level of government be responsible ?

We have Ministries:

Highways, Forests, Agriculture,
Mines, Parks, Fisheries

Should we create a new Ministry
of Water Resources ?



Integrated management approach

Watershed unit

Engage all of the
community interests

Ecosystem based
planning

Manage human activity
within ecological limits



Important Actions

Information gathering

Education

Planning

Legislation

Best practices

Become involved



Websites of interest:

<http://arrowsmithwatersheds.org>

<http://www.innovationbc.com>

Thank you for your attention

Trevor Wicks

